

Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement

SASKATCHEWAN SECTION



CONSTITUTION & HANDBOOK



Constitution as amended July 1943
Handbook prepared by C.C.Y.M. Provincial Executive



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CONSTITUTION OF THE C.C.Y.M., SASKATCHEWAN SECTION

(as amended by the 1943 Annual Convention)

ARTICLE I - Name

This organization shall be known as the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement, Saskatchewan Section.

ARTICLE II - Object

The object of this organization shall be to interest the youth of Saskatchewan in socialism and to unite them into an organization to promote the establishment of a co-operative commonwealth in which the principles regulating production, distribution and exchange shall be the supplying of human needs and not the making of profits.

ARTICLE III - Membership

(a) Any person under the age of 30 years shall be eligible for membership, provided, however, that he or she is not a member of any other political organization, party, or club whose principles are at variance with the principles of the C.C.Y.M.

(b) Five or more members shall constitute a branch.

ARTICLE IV - Fees

Each branch shall decide the amount of its membership fee, provided, however, that 25 cents per capita per annum of such fees shall be turned over to the Provincial Office, which in turn shall forward 5 cents per capita per annum to the National headquarters as set out in the National Constitution. The Provincial Executive shall have the power of making a special appeal for further funds in any emergency or project which is approved by that body, towards the promotion of C.C.Y.M. work.

ARTICLE V - Discipline

Section 1: No member, branch or affiliated organization shall publish or circulate literature purporting to be propaganda of the association without same being approved by the Provincial Executive of the C.C.Y.M.

Section 2: A member shall be expelled by the Provincial Executive only after:

- (a) Due notice has been given of proposed action.
- (b) The suspension be approved by a two-thirds vote of the local club.

ARTICLE VI - Provincial Executive.

Section 1: The Provincial Executive shall consist of seven members - a President, a Vice-President, and five other members, and shall be elected by secret ballot at the annual convention.

Section 2: There shall be an advisory committee of 3 members set up from and by the Provincial Council of the C.C.F. to work in conjunction with the Provincial Executive of the C.C.Y.M.

Section 3: The appointment of a secretary to the Provincial C.C.Y.M. shall be made by the C.C.Y.M. Provincial Executive.

ARTICLE VII - Powers of the Provincial Executive

(a) The Provincial Executive shall have the power to fill all vacancies which may occur during its term of office.

(b) The Provincial Executive shall meet at least once a year and hold such additional meetings as may be found to be necessary.

(c) Between conventions the Provincial Executive shall be the governing body of the C.C.Y.M., Saskatchewan Section, and shall direct the activities of the organization - subject to the advice and direction of the C.C.F. Executive.

(d) The Provincial Executive shall have the power to suspend or expel any branch of the organization for due cause, subject to the appeal to the Annual Provincial Convention.

(e) The Provincial Executive shall appoint three of its own members to the C.C.F. Provincial Council, one of the three appointed to be the Provincial President.

ARTICLE VIII - Annual Convention

Section 1: The Provincial Convention shall be called annually by the Provincial President. Representation shall be on the basis of ten delegates for each Provincial Constituency.

Section 2: At each Provincial Convention the Provincial President shall present a membership and financial report.

ARTICLE IX - Amendments

This constitution may be amended only at the Annual Convention by a two-third vote of the delegates present.

Notice of amendment shall be given at least two weeks prior to the annual convention to the secretary, who shall advise constituency councils in time for the annual meeting. All amendments must be submitted by a local Unit of the C.C.Y.M., Saskatchewan Section.

I. HOW TO ORGANIZE A C.C.Y.M. UNIT

Each unit or branch is expected to keep in close touch with the Provincial Executive. Where several units have been organized within a constituency, they are advised to elect a Constituency Council to co-ordinate their activities. This Constituency Council should also elect the delegates to the annual convention.

The First Meeting

1. Contact all prospective members, keeping in mind the age limit of 30 years. It is advisable, though not obligatory, to get at the outset the help of a C.C.F. member who is prepared to act as advisor to the unit.

2. Invite a speaker: either a C.C.Y.M. organizer or a C.C.F. member who is particularly interested in the Youth Movement.

3. Secure a meeting place (a hall or private home) and advertise as much as possible, by telephone, by letter, by posters, and by personal contact.
4. Have on hand some C.C.Y.M. literature and membership application forms. They may be obtained from the C.C.Y.M. Provincial Secretary or from the C.C.F. Central Office.
5. The chairman for the evening should introduce the speaker, and invite questions and discussion following the address.
6. The business of organization may be carried out at once, or a second meeting may be arranged.

Business of Organization Meeting

1. The chairman announces the purpose of the meeting. A motion to form a C.C.Y.M. unit is passed.
2. The chairman calls for nominations for president, saying "Nominations for president are now in order." Names are received and voted on (usually by ballot.) The Chairman announces the result thus: "Mr. (or Miss) _____ is elected. I call on him (or her) to take the chair."
3. The new president takes the chair and thanks the meeting for the honor bestowed on him. He then calls for nominations for secretary, and a secretary is elected. Similarly a vice-president may be elected.

A treasurer may be elected, or the offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined. The treasurer should collect the membership fees and send the required amount to the Provincial Secretary.

4. The meeting should elect several committees, if the unit is large enough to make this possible, - such as social, educational and membership committees. The convener of a committee is usually the first person nominated. The conveners of the committees may constitute an executive along with the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

The executive and each of the committees should meet independently and present reports of their work to succeeding unit meetings.

5. A unit reporter (to the C.C.F. and local papers) should also be elected. The reporter should send news of the unit's activities to the Commonwealth or to the C.C.Y.M. Provincial Secretary.
6. The date, time and place of the next meeting should be decided.
7. The membership fee should be fixed.
8. If desired, a special committee may be appointed to draw up a constitution for the unit, embodying the purpose, number of executive members, membership fee, etc. This constitution should be presented to the next meeting and adopted (or amended) by the members present.

FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS

1. President - acts as chairman and ex-officio on all committees.
2. Vice-president - acts as chairman when president is absent.
3. Secretary - keeps records (minutes) of what takes place at the meetings and attends to any correspondence.
4. Treasurer - takes in any money belonging to the unit and pays all bills.

II. CONDUCT OF A MEETING

A. Order of Business

1. Meeting called to order by the chairman.
2. Minutes of last meeting read by the secretary. Errors or omissions in the minutes corrected. A motion to adopt the minutes passed, or the minutes declared adopted by the chairman.
3. Correspondence approved and filed.
4. Reports of committees discussed and approved.
5. Unfinished business.
6. New business.
7. New members enrolled.
8. (a) Educational Program; (b) Social Program; etc.
9. Adjournment.

B. Parliamentary Procedure

It is advisable to have all units conduct their meetings according to the established rules, which are a sort of code to safeguard democratic ideals.

1. Obtaining the Floor.

Anyone wishing to address the meeting should rise in his place. Before he or she is privileged to speak, the chairman must call out his or her name. When he or she has resumed his or her place, another member may "obtain the floor" by the same procedure.

2. A Motion.

Having obtained the floor a member may make a proposal by saying, "I move that ..." and stating what he wishes. Some other member must rise and say "I second that motion" before the motion is legally before the house. The chairman then repeats it saying, "The motion is now open for discussion." No other member may speak more than once on a motion, but the mover is permitted a reply at the close of the debate.

The chairman may not speak on a motion, unless he requests some one else temporarily to take the chair.

If there is little discussion, or when the discussion lags, the chairman asks, "Are you ready for the question?" and if the majority of the house answers "Question," the motion is put to the vote. Voting may be done by raising the hand, by rising, or by ballot.

3. Amendments to a Motion.

If another member would like to alter the original motion during the debate, he can suggest an amendment. An amendment to a motion is made in the same way as a motion. A member rises and says, "I move an amendment that ..." An amendment must be seconded in the same way as a motion. It may then be discussed. Alterations in the amendment can be suggested as an amendment to the amendment. Voting is done in the following order:

1. The amendment to the amendment,
2. The amendment
3. The motion.

4. The motion to adjourn is brought up in the same way as any other motion.

5. A nomination does not need to be seconded.

(Each unit is advised to secure one copy at least of W. G. Frisby's "The Conduct of a Meeting" for the guidance of officers and members. This is obtainable from C.C.Y.M. Provincial Secretary or C.C.F. Central Office.)

III. C.C.Y.M. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

"The function of the C.C.Y.M. is both educational and political, but...the emphasis should be placed on educational work." -- National C.C.Y.M. Convention, 1942.

Each unit should appoint an efficient Education Committee.

Choice of Material

Three things should be kept in mind by a new unit.

1. Freedom of choice by the members. Let the subjects for study be freely discussed and decided upon by the group as a whole.
2. A wide viewpoint is desirable, especially for a beginning group. It is not desirable to confine the study to a narrow phase of socialism nor to one political program, without first attempting to form a clear picture of the fundamentals of socialism, in contrast to other theories.
3. A study of current events should be included in every program. History moves rapidly. Youth must understand what is taking place today in order to make its decisions tomorrow.

Each unit is recommended to subscribe to "News Comment", and to have some member at each meeting give a short account of the leading articles in "News Comment". This is obtainable at one dollar a year from C.O.F. National Office, 805, 56 Sparks Street, Ottawa.

The Provincial Executive should annually prepare one or more study courses, and make them available to the units. These courses should be discussed and determined in part at the Annual Convention.

The books and pamphlets prescribed by the study courses should be supplemented by clippings from newspapers and magazines, by the opinions of guest speakers, and by additional books on the same subjects.

Educational films may be obtained from Canadian Legion War Services, Inc. Address inquiries to:

Saskatchewan North ...Dr. K. W. Gordon, Ass't. Director of Extension,
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

Saskatchewan South ...Mr. E. F. Halliday,
Canadian Legion War Services Inc.,
11 Victoria Park Building,
REGINA, Saskatchewan.

Presenting the Material.

A schedule should be drawn up by the Educational Committee, assigning to various members the preparation of particular sections of the study course. A copy of the schedule should be posted in the club room, or given to each of the club members. The person in charge of the study each night should present the material, lead the discussion, and summarize the conclusions drawn.

Other members should be chosen to give five-minute summaries of current events at each meeting.

Other means of presenting material are listed under "Public Speaking."

IV. OTHER ACTIVITIES

A. Public Speaking

1. THE OXFORD DEBATE: A topic for debate is announced. Each person decides which side he wishes to support. Those supporting the resolution stand to the right of the chairman; those upholding the negative stand to the left.

Each person is given a short time to present his arguments, affirmative and negative speakers taking the floor alternately. At the close of the debate the debaters themselves vote to decide the winning side.

2. **THE FORMAL DEBATE:** lends itself to use in club activities. Excellent material on the correct procedure may be obtained from any high school language text or by writing for the same to the Department of Women's Work, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

Suggested topics for Oxford or Formal debates are:

- (1) Resolved that before we can change the existing social order we must change the individual.
- (2) Resolved that modern youth is superior mentally and physically to the youth of the past generation.
- (3) Resolved that capital punishment should be abolished.
- (4) Resolved that a university education is of more benefit than travel.
- (5) Resolved that Canada should determine her own foreign policy independent of the war policy of the present British National Government.
- (6) Resolved that it would be in the best interest of the three Prairie Provinces, to be fused into one large province.

(3) **TWO MINUTE SPEECHES:** The topics, written on slips of paper, are drawn by each person. He is given two minutes to express himself on the subject he has drawn.

4. **A QUESTION BOX:** Questions pertinent to present day affairs, problems relative to youth, etc. are written on slips of paper by each person and inserted in the question box. Each person draws a question and answers to the best of his ability.

5. A novel way of presenting a program is to have a commission appointed to investigate a given problem. For example; a commission has been appointed to investigate the future for youth in various countries of the world. A chairman prepares the questions, and witnesses, who have versed themselves in the subject, and acting as spokesmen for the various countries, are called in to answer questions relative to the training and opportunities available to the youth in their respective countries. The reports of each are summed up by the chairman in a final speech.

6. **THE PANEL DISCUSSION:** A leader and four speakers group themselves about a discussion table. With the rest of the members present as an audience, the leader introduces the subject and each speaker, in turn, presents opinions. The subject is discussed between them. The subject is then turned over for general discussion to the audience.

7. **BOOK REVIEWS:** are ideal as a vehicle for expression of one's own opinion and as an exercise in good judgment.

B. Dramatics

An excellent catalogue of "Plays and Entertainments" may be obtained from F. E. Asborne, School Furnishers, Calgary, Alberta.

The choice of the play depends on the number and talent of the actors but in this catalogue a wide variety of material will be found.

Dramatization is also an ideal form of entertainment and self-expression. Material for procedure in a Mock Parliament may be obtained from the United Farmers of Canada, Sask. Section, Saskatoon.

Original ideas may be used with good results. Some that have been tried with success are, "Scenes from the Banks of the Wascana," a play written from material secured in press reports of the Legislative proceedings. "An American (or Canadian) election campaign," in which candidates were impersonated and their respective platforms presented. "A Mock Coronation". Literary, artistic and dramatic abilities are involved in this type of dramatization.

Mock radio programs are suitable and novel ways of presenting programs.

The Journal. The literary talent of the group may find expression in a journal in which phrasing, verse, comments and reviews all have a definite part. Literary competitions in connection with the journal are valuable.

C. Social Activities

1. Wiener Roast: In planning a wiener roast, five things must be arranged for previously, (1) winners, (2) buns, (3) coffee, or other beverage, (4) sharpened sticks for roasting, (5) fuel for a bonfire. If plenty of fuel is available after the winners are consumed, distribute your song sheets and have a sing song by the camp fire.
2. Corn Roast: Plenty of fresh row corn will be needed. Corn that is too old will burn easily, and be hard and disappointing. Thick green husks on mature prime cobs will give the best results. The fire should burn down and the cobs be thrown in on the coals. When the husk is blackened the corn is usually ready. Plenty of butter and salt should be ready in several convenient centers. Coffee and cake usually complete the roast.
3. Bean Feed: A bean feed is one of the most economical of feeds. They are previously cooked and served piping hot, either from a vessel set in coals outside, or from casseroles indoors. Pickles, brown bread, pie and coffee make good accompaniments.
4. Professor Quiz programs may be conducted along the lines of a radio program. Questions are written on slips of paper. Each contestant draws a question and tries to answer it. Questions such as, "What color is the inside of the rainbow?", "Name the Great Lakes from East to West", "What force in Spain opposed Franco?"
5. A radio program may combine the lighter side with educational features. Mock advertising such as "Holden" rubber treads for knives guaranteed to hold at least five pins at a time. News items, weather reports, time signals, musical selections and dramas may all be interposed between the educational features which may take the form of an "Inter-university debate," an address, or a book review.

6. Skating Parties: may be carried out in several different ways. The most popular one is to go skating first and to a house afterward for the meeting and lunch. A sleigh-riding party may be carried on in the same way.

7. A progressive supper is very good for places where the houses are close together, or where there is a quick means of transportation. The group enters at one place where they have cocktails, at another they have soup, at the next perhaps the main course, and so on until a complete dinner has been served.

8. Community Singing: A good leader is essential. Song sheets may be obtained from the Leader-Post, Regina. Words and music of the C.C.F. Victory Song may be obtained from the C.C.F. Central Office.

D. Money-Raising Activities

1. Danes: Usually these are more successful in rural areas, where the costs of hall and orchestra are less.

2. Plays and Concerts: Co-operation with the C.C.F. or C.C.F. Women's Club may be necessary for these.

3. Public Teas.

4. Bazaars: Each member may donate three or more small popular items wrapped as gifts (for Christmas, Mother's Day, etc.)

5. Refreshment booths at public gatherings.

6. Sale of some publications (notably the "Canadian Forum") on a commission basis. The "Saskatchewan Commonwealth" credits a twenty per cent commission to the C.C.Y.M. Provincial Treasury for all subscriptions sold by C.C.Y.M. members.

E. Political Activities

The C.C.Y.M. should be ready to co-operate with the C.C.F. in campaigning, distributing literature, canvassing for subscriptions and memberships, arranging for public meetings, etc.

A willingness to take part in the actual heat and labor of politics should be aimed at, and it should be stressed that self-education is only the first step and cannot by itself achieve anything.

F. Special Projects

Projects of a local nature which are in line with the co-operative principle should be attempted wherever possible. C.C.Y.M.'s should become members of trade unions, should have share in consumers' and producers' co-operatives, and in co-operative social services. They should interest themselves in improving or in establishing community recreation centres, playgrounds and parks. They might undertake comprehensive surveys of local problems, along such lines as housing, domestic and farm labor, water and power supplies, etc.

V. RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST

Rural libraries are often quite inadequate but books may be loaned from the "Open Shelf Library", Regina, or from "The Wheat Pool Library," Wheat Pool Headquarters, Regina, free of charge, the return postage only being paid.

The Provincial Executive has on hand copies of a "book pool" listing many books owned by various O.C.Y.M. individuals. The list may be had on request to the O.C.Y.M. Provincial Secretary.

Where funds are available, a unit library should be built up.

1. Socialism: History and Philosophy

Shaw, Bernard -- The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism, Capitalism, Sovietism & Fascism (Pelican Books, 2 volumes.)

Brilliant, clear, and untechnical in language; the best introduction to socialism for man or woman.

Henderson, Fred -- The Case for Socialism

The ABC of socialism in 150 pages; discusses the relation of socialism to property, liberty, human nature, etc.

Stinchey, John -- The Theory and Practice of Socialism

Written from the Marxist point of view; good account of the present economic system in first third of the book.

Durbin, D. H. -- The Politics of Democratic Socialism

Interesting contrast to Stinchey above. Criticizes Marxism and argues very forcefully that "democratic socialism is the best cure for poverty and the best method of furthering the happiness of the human race." Author is teacher at the London School of Economics.

Colo, G.D.H. -- Socialism in Evolution (Pelican Books, 20 cents)

Three chapters of the development of the British Labor Party, and other chapters discussing the future of socialism and how to realize it.

Graves, Sally -- A History of Socialism

A good brief account of the growth of socialist ideas in Britain and Europe in the last 150 years.

Kropotkin, P. -- Mutual Aid (Pelican Books, 20 cents)

A classic of the co-operative movement, demonstrating that both in nature and in human society co-operation, and not conflict and competition, is the way of progress.

2. Current History and Affairs.

Colo, G.D.H. & H. -- The Intelligent Man's Review of Europe today

Still the best guide to Europe since the War of 1918; a historical, political, economic and international survey.

Dutt, R. P. -- World Politics (1918-36)

Explains adequately why the world is in its present mess.

Gedye, G. R. -- Fallen Bastions

A British journalist's account of how democracy was betrayed in Europe in the late thirties.

Shelvonkar, K. S. -- The Problem of India (Penguin Books, 20 cents)

The future of Great Britain will be decided in India, said Lord Gizon. In this book is a historical survey of India, a description of the social and economic structure of the country, and an account of current political movements.

Barnes, Leonard -- Empire or Democracy

An English authority on colonial problems discusses the relation between present-day imperialism and democracy.

Wells, H. G. -- The Overmansion of War and Peace. (Penguin Books)

Mr. Wells' view of what this present war is about, and his plan for a new world order based on socialism and the rights of man.

The Penguin Political Dictionary (20 cents)

An invaluable reference book of articles, alphabetically arranged, on every aspect of current politics from Abohar to Zog (king of Albania)

The Penguin Political Atlas (20 cents)

A handy book of maps to go with the dictionary.

3. Economics and Politics

Colo, G.D.H. -- Practical Economics (Penguin Books, 20 cents)

Accounts of what has been done in the way of economic planning in the Soviet, in Germany and Italy, in the United States, and in Great Britain.

Rubens, L. -- Man's Worldly Goods

An account of economic theory side by side with an account of economic practice from the sixteenth century to the present day. The Story of the Wealth of the Nations, written for use in progressive schools in the U.S.A., but fascinating for adults too.

Brilsford, H. N. -- Property or Peace?

The connection between monopoly, capitalism and war in the modern world. A brilliant book.

Laski, H. J. -- Liberty in the Modern State (Polison Books)

Explores the meaning of liberty today, not as a catchword or slogan, but in terms of practical affairs.

Wells, H.G. -- The Rights of Man (Penguin Books, 20 cents)

Argues that the foundation of lasting peace and ordered progress is a new statement of the rights of man, which he supplies.

Woolf, L. -- After the Deluge (Polison Books)

The psychology of man as a social and political being, with particular emphasis on the psychology of democratic communities.

Tenney, R.H. -- Equality

Not an easy book, but a great one. What do we mean by equality? How may we get it? The author is one of the intellectual leaders of the British Labor Party.

Russell, Bertrand -- Power

The author believes that the love of power is the driving motive in society. Discusses the forms that this motive takes and the ways in which it may be directed for the common good of man.

Vlastos, G. -- Christian Faith and Democracy.

A short but telling discussion of the social implications of living Christianity, by the Professor of Philosophy at Queens University.

4. The Canadian Scene

Scott, E. R. -- Canada Today

A brief but thorough survey of the salient features of Canadian life at the present.

League for Social Reconstruction -- Democracy Needs Socialism

A plain, straightforward account of how democratic socialism would affect the lives of Canadians (farmers, workers in industry, professionals, women, etc.)

League for Social Reconstruction -- Social Planning for Canada

Bulky but invaluable for reference. Detailed blueprint for a socialist Canada.

Mooney, C. S. -- Co-operatives Today and Tomorrow

A Canadian Survey of the possibilities of the Consumers' Co-operative Movement. Much excellent information for 25¢.

Lewis, D. & Scott, F.R. -- Make This Your Canada

A good account of the development of the Canadian economy, together with an outline of what a C.C.F. Government in Canada might be expected to do in its first term of office.

5. Literature of Social Interest

Sinclair, Upton -- The Jungle

Sinclair, Upton -- Boston

Two novels, the first dealing with the meat-packing industry in Chicago; the second with the famous Sacco-Vanzetti case; capitalist ethics and capitalist justice, respectively.

Steinbeck, John -- In Dubious Battle

Steinbeck, John -- Grapes of Wrath

The first is a story of a strike in the apple orchards of California; the second of dispossessed farmers' migration from the Dust Bowl in the U.S.A. Fine stories of human brotherhood.

Dee Pausas, John -- U.S.A. (Modern Library Giants)

A trilogy of novels dealing with American life from 1900 to the Great Depression; the stench of decaying capitalism is over it all.

Malraux, A. -- Days of Wrath

Courage and comradeship in a Nazi cell.

Bolfrage, G. -- Let My People Go.

A true story of a preacher's attempt to put the ethics of Jesus into practice in contemporary America; and what happened to him.

Odets, Clifford -- Six Plays

Plays of social significance by a young American left-wing playwright.

Kozlenko, W. (editor) -- Best Plays of the Social Theatre

Plays by contemporary socialist writers.

Anderson, Maxwell -- Hinteract

A fine play, mostly in verse, of a son's attempt to vindicate the good name of his father, framed on a charge of murder because of his political views.

Sandburg, Carl -- The People, Yes!

In free verse and rhapsodical prose, a vindication of the dignity of the common man, and a magnificent statement of faith in democracy.

Mulgan, John (editor) -- Poems of Freedom

Gathered from six centuries of English poetry.

Sinclair, Upton -- A Cry for Social Justice

A fine anthology in prose and verse from the literature of twenty-five centuries.

Brittain, Vera -- Testament of Youth

A woman's poignant story of what the war of 1914-18 meant to the young of her generation.

Steffens, Lincoln -- Autobiography

A famous American Journalist's story of his experiences of the chief social and political movements of the 20th century.

6. Peace Aims and Post-War Planning

Carr, E. H. -- Conditions of Peace

Emphasizes the need for economic reconstruction and economic justice between nations as the way towards international peace. The best book on its subject.

Acland, R. -- What It Will Be Like in the New Britain

A fascinating picture of Britain as it could be under the common ownership of the means of production and distribution.

Chas. Stuart -- Goals for America

Demonstrates how freedom from want can be secured on this continent.

Cassidy, H. M. -- Social Security and Reconstruction in Canada

The best discussion of its subject available, and progressive in its viewpoint.

Cole, G.D.H. -- Europe, Russia, and the Future.

Discusses the shape of things to come in Europe; urges socialist federation of the continent as condition of permanent peace.

Phillips, Theodore, -- Comparative Peace Aims

An excellent summary of the various plans and projects for international reconstruction that are currently put forward.

